

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PEKING 01205 060918Z

20

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 L-03 OMB-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OES-06 /039 W

----- 021194

R 060808Z JUL 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5895

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PEKING 1205

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, CH

SUBJECT: U.S. WHEAT STUDIES DELEGATION'S VISIT TO PRC

1. A U.S. WHEAT STUDIES DELEGATION OF ELEVEN MEMBERS VISITED THE PRC FROM MAY 20 TO JUNE 16.
2. THE DELEGATION WAS RECEIVED BY THE CHINESE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURE WHICH ARRANGED THE TRAVEL AND APPOINTMENTS SCHEDULE. THE DELEGATION WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE AGRICULTURAL OFFICER OF USLO.
3. VISITS WERE MADE TO THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE, ITS AFFILIATED INSTITUTES AND AGRICULTURAL COMMUNES IN AND NEAR PEKING, NANKING, SHANGHAI, SIAN, SHIHCHIACHUANG AND CHANGCHUN.
4. LABORATORIES VISITED AT VARIOUS INSTITUTES WERE WELL-EQUIPPED. MOST OF THE LABORATORY EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING AN ELECTRON MICROSCOPE, WAS MANUFACTURED IN THE PRC -- MOSTLY IN SHANGHAI.
5. SCIENTISTS AND LABORATORY TECHNICIANS APPEARED CAPABLE AND WELL-TRAINED. SEVERAL HAD BEEN TRAINED

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PEKING 01205 060918Z

IN U.S. UNIVERSITIES PRIOR TO 1949.

6. THE RESEARCH PROGRAMS AND PLANT BREEDING WORK ARE COORDINATED BY THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND ITS AFFILIATED INSTITUTES. THE INSTITUTES HAVE BRANCH STATIONS AT THE PROVINCIAL, PREFECTURAL, COUNTY, AND COMMUNE LEVEL. RESEARCH WORK IS CARRIED OUT UNDER A "THREE-IN-ONE COMBINATION" OF SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICIANS, CADRE AND PEASANTS.

7. SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICIANS FROM CENTRAL LABORATORIES SPEND PART OF THEIR TIME ON COMMUNES "AT THE GRASS ROOTS." DIRECTORS OF SOME INSTITUTES STATED THAT UP TO TWO-THIRDS OF THEIR STAFF ARE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE AT ANY GIVEN TIME. SCIENTISTS MAY BE ASSIGNED TO THE COMMUNES FOR PERIODS OF MORE THAN ONE YEAR.

8. AT THE SAME TIME, PEASANTS FROM THE COMMUNES ARE BROUGHT INTO THE CENTRAL LABORATORIES FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF TRAINING AND RESEARCH WORK.

9. THE SYSTEM WAS EVIDENTLY DEVISED TO KEEP RESEARCH EFFORTS CLOSELY RELATED TO THE IMMEDIATE AND LONG-RANGE PROBLEMS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, TO INVOLVE THE "MASSES" IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND ASSIST IN ELIMINATING CLASS DIFFERENCES. THE SYSTEM PROBABLY HAS BROUGHT ABOUT (1) CLOSER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RESEARCH EFFORTS AND EXISTING AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS, (2) IMPROVED UTILIZATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND (3) WIDESPREAD TRAINING OF PEASANT TECHNICIANS AT THE COMMUNE, BRIGADE AND PRODUCTION TEAM LEVEL.

10. FROM AN AMERICAN POINT OF VIEW, HOWEVER, THE SYSTEM OF EXPERIMENT STATIONS AT EVERY LEVEL FROM THE PRODUCTION TEAM TO THE ACADEMY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE IN PEKING SUGGESTS A HIGH DEGREE OF DUPLICATION OF EFFORT AND SOME MISUSE OF RESOURCES. SENDING TOP LEVEL SCIENTISTS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE (TO WORK WITH AND LEARN FROM PEASANTS) FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PEKING 01205 060918Z

INDICATES AT LEAST A MEASURE OF WASTE OF TALENT. THESE LONG ABSENCES BY SCIENTISTS FROM THEIR OWN LABORATORIES SUGGESTS POSSIBLE DISRUPTION OF LONG-RANGE RESEARCH PROGRAMS.

11. PLANT BREEDING STATIONS ARE MAINTAINED AT ALL RESEARCH LEVELS FROM THE ACADEMY TO THE PRODUCTION BRIGADE OR PRODUCTION TEAM. THE LATTER NORMALLY

ALSO PRODUCES ITS OWN PLANTING SEED. BREEDING PROGRAMS ARE QUITE EXTENSIVE AND SEEM WELL PLANNED AND OPERATED.

12. WHEAT BREEDING IN CHINA HAS BEEN LARGELY CONDUCTED UNDER THE "SPIRIT OF SELF-RELIANCE." THUS ONLY LIMITED USE HAS BEEN MADE OF WHEAT GERMPLASM FROM OUTSIDE THE PRC. INSTEAD, THE PRC WHEAT BREEDERS HAVE LAUNCHED A HEAVY PROGRAM OF INDUCING GENETIC VARIABILITY BY USE OF POLLEN CULTURE, ATOMIC RADIATION AND SOMATIC HYBRIDIZATION. GREATER PROGRESS MIGHT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE BY INTRODUCTION OF MORE GERMPLASM FROM OTHER WHEAT-GROWING AREAS OF THE WORLD -- OR AT LEAST A COMBINATION OF THE TWO SYSTEMS. THE MAJOR THRUST IN SEED BREEDING IS TO PRODUCE VARIETIES WHICH ARE HIGH YIELDING AND DISEASE RESISTANT. LITTLE ATTENTION IS PAID TO PROTEIN CONTENT.

13. CHINESE SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICIANS AT PRESENT APPEAR TO BE A CAPABLE LOT. UNDER THE CURRENT PROGRAM OF EDUCATIONAL TRAINING, THE QUESTION ARISES AS TO THE ADEQUACY OF TRAINING OF THE UP-COMING GENERATION OF SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICIANS.

14. THE MAJOR WHEAT DISEASES IN CHINA ARE SCAB AND RUST. THERE WAS EVIDENCE IN THE WHEAT BREEDING PLOTS THAT REAL PROGRESS IS BEING MADE IN THE PERFECTION OF DISEASE RESISTANT WHEAT STRAINS. DISEASE CONTROL WAS GENERALLY QUITE GOOD IN THE COMMERCIAL SEED PRODUCTION PLOTS OBSERVED.

15. MUCH EFFORT IS BEING PUT INTO PRODUCING HIGH YIELDING VARIETIES WITH SHORTER GROWING SEASONS WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 PEKING 01205 060918Z

ARE ADAPTED TO DOUBLE AND TRIPLE CROPPING SYSTEMS. DEFINITE PROGRESS IS BEING MADE NOT ONLY WITH WHEAT VARIETIES BUT ALSO CORN, SORGHUM, MILLET, COTTON, SOYBEANS, ETC.

16 EXTENSIVE EXPERIMENTATION IS BEING CONDUCTED AT ALL RESEARCH LEVELS ON DEVELOPING SYSTEMS OF MULTIPLE CROPPING AND INTERCROPPING WHICH ARE ADAPTED TO THE VARIOUS AREAS OF CHINA. EXPERIMENTS OR DEMONSTRATIONS OF SUCH SYSTEMS WERE OBSERVED ON EVERY COMMUNE VISITED. THESE SYSTEMS AIM AT OPTIMUM USE OF SOIL MOISTURE, SOIL FERTILITY AND SUNLIGHT.

17. IN PEKING THE DELEGATION PRESENTED THE AGRICULTURAL

ASSOCIATION SIX SETS OF U.S. WHEAT SEED SAMPLES
FOR POSSIBLE USE IN CHINESE BREEDING PROGRAMS. THE
DELEGATION WAS INFORMED THAT SOME OF THE SAMPLES WERE
REJECTED AND DESTROYED BY THE CHINESE PLANT
QUARANTINE SERVICE BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF SMUT
SPORES, SOME OF WHICH WERE SPORES OF DWARD BUNG
SMUT (TCK).

18. AT THE END OF THE TOUR, THE CHINESE AGRICULTURAL
ASSOCIATION PRESENTED THE U.S. WHEAT STUDIES DELEGATION
WITH SEED SAMPLES OF 80 VARIETIES OF CHINESE WHEAT
AND TWO VARIETIES OF TRITICALE.
GATES

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WHEAT, VISITS, CONSULTANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PEKING01205
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760259-0757
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760788/aaaaczeg.tel
Line Count: 182
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. WHEAT STUDIES DELEGATION'S VISIT TO PRC
TAGS: EAGR, CH, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006